

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1. OCCURRENCE OF SMALL INDIAN CIVET *VIVERRICULA INDICA* FAMILY VIVERRIDAE, IN THE MID-HILLS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The small Indian civet *Viverricula indica* is a true civet (Viverrinae) found in the Indian subcontinent extending from east of the Indus river in Pakistan to the whole of peninsular India southwards to Cape Comorin. Eastwards, its range extends to Myanmar, southern China and the Malay countries. According to Prater (1965), it has been recorded from the Himalayan foothills, living in dry or moist conditions, but it keeps out of heavy forest and prefers long grass or scrub to live in. The species also favours irrigated forest plantations, but avoids highly settled cultivated areas as well as mountainous regions of Pakistan (Roberts 1977).

While working in Chail Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh, the carcass of a small Indian civet was found at village Chhot in April 1997. The village is located at an altitude of 1,600 m on the southern slopes of the Chail Wildlife Sanctuary, where the vegetation is dominated by bushes and grasslands. The animal seems to have died a natural death, as the body bore no marks of injury. The species was never observed alive in the Sanctuary, mainly because it is strictly nocturnal. Though omnivorous, there were no reports of it feeding upon fruit crops.

But there were definite reports of occurrence of another species of civet, the Himalayan palm civet *Paguma larvata* in and around Chail Wildlife Sanctuary. These animals are often killed by the farmers because of their frugivorous habit (Narang 1996).

The occurrence of small Indian civet in Chail Wildlife Sanctuary appears to be a stray incident. Nevertheless, it is perhaps the first record of this species occurring in the mid-hills of Himachal Pradesh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora (UP) for financial assistance.

February 2, 2000

M.L. NARANG,
NAIM AKHTAR,
MANOJ KUMAR

*Department of Silviculture & Agroforestry,
University of Horticulture and Forestry,
Nauni, Solan 173 230,
Himachal Pradesh,
India.*

REFERENCES

NARANG, M.L. (1996): Some notes on the Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata* (Hamilton-Smith) (Carnivora: Viverridae). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 93(1): 80-81.

PRATER, S.H. (1965): The Book of Indian Animals. Bombay Natural History Society. Bombay.

ROBERTS, T.J. (1977): The Mammals of Pakistan. Ernest Benn. London and Tombridge.

2. WETTING OF NOSTRIL BY JACKAL *CANIS AUREUS* LINN., CARNIVORA, FAMILY CANIDAE

In the Sumer region of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan, the summer is very severe and the day temperature can be unbearably high. During the end of May, a hot and dry wind blows constantly all day.

On May 29, 1999, I was sitting near a waterhole in a hide in Sumer. At 1425 hrs, a jackal waded into the water and started lapping it up. After drinking, it looked around, wet its tongue in the water and inserted the dripping